

**PIKES PEAK
RADIO AMATEUR
ASSOCIATION
(PPRAA)**

Activities/Meetings

- Ham Breakfast
Saturday, July 4th
New Day Café,
5901 Delmonico Dr.
Join us between
8:00-9:30 AM
All are warmly invited
- PPRAA Board Meeting
Mon, July 6th
IHOP
- PPRAA general member-
ship meeting, Wednes-
day, July 8th.
- 10 Meter/2 Meter net
Every Thursday 7:00 pm
28.390 MHz—USB
144.200 MHz-USB

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Ø-BEAT

Volume 65 Issue 07

July 2015

PPRAA—Megafest—July 11th



The PPRAA Megafest is almost here. Of course we hope to see you Saturday, July 11th. The location is Lewis-Palmer High School, located at 1300 Higby Road, Monument, CO. It is just East of I-25, between Exits 158 & 161.

Doors open to the public at 8:00 AM with the raffle drawing at noon. We will have hourly door prize drawings. If you have a table, the vendor door will open at 6:00 AM giving plenty of time for setup.

Last year, construction made for a long trip for vendors, but this year we are back to normal.



VE Testing will start at 10:00 AM. Cost is \$15 is testing only. There is a \$5 entrance fee Megafest. If you are just getting into amateur radio or wanting to upgrade your ticket, Megafest provides the ideal setting for you.

Megafest sponsors include:

- ⇒ Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group (CMRG)
- ⇒ Ham Radio Supply (HRO), Denver
- ⇒ RT Systems
- ⇒ Southwest Antennas
- ⇒ RF Adaptor Guy

Setup is Friday afternoon from 4:00 until 6:00 PM, and your assistance is greatly appreciated. Take down is at 1:00 PM of Megafest and lasts about 30 to 45 minutes.



PPRAA—Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars:

- PPRAA Annual Picnic
- Sunday August 16, 2015
- 1000-1500 MDT
- Food served around 1230
- Potluck (Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert)
- Club provides burgers, brats, drinks
- Club Station (72 N Ellicott Hwy) Ellicott.



PPRAA Officers and Board of Directors

PPRAA Board of Directors consists of four elected officers, seven board members, as well the past president (time limit dependent). The Ø-Beat editor and webmaster are a board appointed position and is also a member of the board.

Officers include:

- ⇒ President
- ⇒ Vice-President
- ⇒ Secretary
- ⇒ Treasurer

To send board member's email, browse to the officers section of our website: <http://ppraa.org/about-ppraa/officers>

President	Raleigh Holcomb	N4HYF
Vice-President	Jim Bishop	KDØKQL
Secretary	Diana Nordstrom	KCØNPP
Treasurer	Pam Scott	WØPRS
Past President	Michael Derbort	KCØELG
Board Member	Dan Martin	KDØSMP
Board Member	Glenn Brodt	N3ULW
Board Member	Jim Rader	KDØNQM
Board Member	Charlie Coyner	KD6CBC
Board Member	Jim Harris	WØEM
Board Member	Virgil Yost	NØXRS
Board Member	Frank Roger	KB3PDT
Ø-Beat Editor	Dan Scott	WØRO
Webmaster	Doug Nielsen	N7LEM

Online Resources

PPRAA Website

<http://ppraa.org>

The PPRAA website is the cornerstone for club related information, events, and technical information.

In addition you can register, pay dues, and submit donations. Donations to the PPRAA college scholarship fund are managed by FAR Scholarship Committee

Facebook / Google+

Follow activities as they unfold, or get reminders of upcoming events.

Links to both Facebook and Google+ social media sites can be found on the PPRAA.org.

Or from each social media site search on: Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

PPRAA Forums

The PPRAA forums are intended to allow users to exchange of ideas, ask and answer amateur radio related questions, and plan/discuss upcoming events.

This is a fantastic, but underutilized, tool. Check it out and register at: PPRAA.Forumotion.net

Monthly Activities

Membership Meeting

Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00.

IHOP
5749 Stetson Hills Blvd
(just west of Powers Blvd)

NOTE: Many show up at 6 pm for kibitzing and grub.

Board Meeting

IHOP
5749 Stetson Hills Blvd

6:30pm—8:00pm
On the Monday preceding the membership meeting.

Board Meetings are open to all members.

Ham Breakfast

Location changes monthly: Check ppraa.org or table of contents, page I for the breakfast meeting location.

10 Meter/2 Meter Net

Every Thursday at 7pm
Starts on 28.390 USB then transitions to 2 Meter SSB at 144.200 USB.



Meeting Presentation Topics

Last Meeting

Field Day

This Month's Meeting

Mike, WV7T—Sand Dunes operation.

Next Meeting

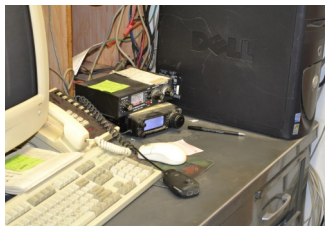
TBD

Field Day

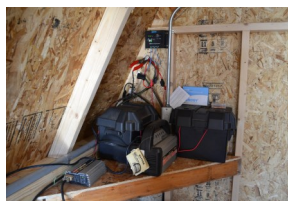
As always, field day was a fun event. We operated 3F, at it was conducted at the Ellicott Fire Station which is an EOC.



This was the intention of the PPRAA club station operation 4 position with 3 positions in the trailer and one position in the fire station radio room. The club's solar power array



was partially brought online. The controller and battery system were installed into the new shed allowing one station to be fully solar powered.



Solar Controller



Full time solar/battery station



Terry, KDØJAX, operating

Depending on the operators, Phone, CW, or digital modes were operated at the positions. Mike, WV7T, copied the ARRL bulletin in CW, and multiple digital modes. It was interesting that ARRL sent the Field Day bulletin in so many modes.



Mike, WV7T, copying bulletins

To break up the day we conducted a short fox hunt course. Dan, WØRO, setup the course and provided an 2-meter fox. The fox was located on the fire station property.



Fox Hunt—Diana, KDØNPP

Also did some ad-hoc education getting youth in attendance on the air making contacts.



Two of the youth made very diverse contacts to multiple Hawaiian and Virgin Island stations.

Of course, we had food, plenty of food.



Doug, N7LEM "the cook"

The 50 or so that attended with all having a great time.



PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes—8 June 2015

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

8 June 2015

Call To Order - 18:29

Approval of the April Meeting Minutes – Jim R. moves to accept as published on the website and in the Zero Beat, Glenn seconds, board approves.

Committee reports

Treasurer's Report - \$10,781.14

Station Move Report – Shed has been bought and installed and wired. Still needs minor work but is in good position. Jim B is working on shelving for the interior, the solar panels have been moved.

Electrical Committee needs to meet to get a plan sorted out for them. Need skirting to discourage critters around the bottom of the shed and trailer

Remote Station – Will not be moved to station location until conduit has been buried

Megafest 2015 – Up \$400 in ticket sales from last year at this time, down \$162 in table sales

Field Day Committee – Need crew to move equipment from station to shed. 2 stations + GOTA. Only 2 computers are networked for logging. Jim H. motions to not exceed \$400 for food. Diana seconds, motion passes.

Zero Beat - Still need articles! Submit articles to zerobeat@ppraa.org

Tech Ed - General Class License class is doing well, have requests for future sessions. Due to information needed to be passed on, number of classes has been extended. Testing will be at Megafest.

ARES – John Bloodgood is now Emergency Coordinator for PPARES. Need more for events on the 20th and 28th. Go to PPARES website to sign up.

Club Picnic – Jim H. motions to hold the picnic at the station location on August 16th. Virgil seconds, the board passes. Jim H moves to not exceed \$250 for food, Jim B seconds, board approves.

Asset Committee – missing extended fiberglass mast; have the base. Email Virgil if you have information

Antenna Committee – Contact various persons for entry into Federal grant systems to pay for antenna towers. Will go through and double check pricing for tower raising.

Around the table

Dan & Pam S – Blue tickets were supposed to be for all PPRAA events and we've only been handing them out at club meetings. Shall we switch? Starting at Field Day, sign-in sheet.

Pam – an HT door prize at the picnic

Virgil – Requested emailed reminders for club events

Mike A – Working on getting more special events going. Will be hosting a hands-on Field Day at his house.

Remote Board Motions -

June 27th, at field day: 16:40, Dan motioned for the club to raffle off the spare solar panels for a to be determined price to the club at a future club meeting. Separate from the door prize raffle. Jim B seconds. Present members passed – Jim B, Dan S, Doug, Diana, Virgil, Raleigh, and Glenn.

Next Board Meeting: July 6th, Location: IHOP

Adjourn - Pam motions to adjourn, Jim R seconds,

PPRAA General Meeting Minutes—10 June 2015

PPRAA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
10 June 2015

Call To Order – 19:01

Introductions

Silent Keys - None

Approval of the May Meeting Minutes - Pam moves to accept as published, John seconds, club approves

Committee reports

Treasurer's Report - \$10,781.14, \$5000 is available to be spent.

Antenna report - Dan Martin is looking into federal and state grants to be able to put up the club antennas. If you wish to help write the proposals or know of other grants we can pursue, please contact him

Building Report - 8x16 shed at the location, it is now wired. Working on getting wired internet to the club station. Solar panels will soon be hooked up as well. Need a crew to paint the shed.

Megafest 2015 - We are behind in table sales, but way ahead on ticket sales thanks to Jim B. Currently at 33 sold tables.

Field Day committee - Being promoted to the press and on the community event calendars.

Zero Beat - Need more articles! Please send them to zerobeat@ppraa.org as often as you wish. Include [ZeroBeat] in the subject. cc: w0prs@me.com to guarantee receipt.

Tech Ed - General Classes are going well, VE session will be at Megafest. Mike WV7T has some students for General and Extra.

CSVHFS Conference - 23-26 July at the Denver Marriott in Westminster. Check the club

website for more information. Special Event Station - An interest in running a station for 4th of July? Contact the Board to let us know.

HamCon 2016 - Will be in Keystone on May 13-15. Will need to buy convention meals ahead of time.

HamCon Utah 2015 - Bryce Canyon, UT 31 Jul-2 Aug

ARES - John Bloodgood is new Emergency Coordinator. Need volunteers for 14th, Mountain Top Cycling Club on the 20th need 20 volunteers, Pikes Peak Int'l

Hill Climb on 28th need 35 volunteers
HR-1301 - US House of Rep version of CO 5315-041. Do not have our local rep (Lamborn) co-signing it yet. Please contact ARRL to send a letter to your local rep.

Scholarship Fund - Need donations! Currently less than \$100

Club Picnic - August 16th at Ellicott Fire Department, 75 N Ellicott Hwy. Please bring side dishes, club will provide meats, condiments and drinks.

VE Sessions - Next session is on June 13th. A special VE session will be held at Megafest, see the website for more information.

10m Net - 28.390 USB at 7pm on Thursdays.

Next Meeting: July 8th, Location: IHOP





ISOTRON 6 Meters anyone

"I have been publishing this technical article since January of 2013. For the past 35 years I have manufactured the Isotron Antennas. This also involved helping many with their very difficult installations. Some of the information will be from what we learned solve these problems. Some information will be right from a text book or credible article.

You are welcome to contact me at:
wd0eja@isotronantennas.com
with question you may have.

S-Meters

I have been publishing this technical article since January of 2013. For the past 35 years I have manufactured the Isotron Antennas. This also involved helping many with their very difficult installations. Some of the information will be from what we learned solve these problems. Some information will be right from a text book or credible article.

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with question you may have.

S-METERS

Virtually all receivers have them. Are they of value for measuring signal strength? When a signal is strong, of course.

When a signal is weak, the meter is no good.

Most S-Meters are driven by the "Automatic Gain Control" circuit, or AGC. This can be done in a variety of ways. AGC voltages can be applied to 1 or several amplifier stages in the receiver. This makes it difficult to standardize S-Meter values.

In time you will know how your S-Meter reacts. It is

common to hear an operator state that his S-Meter is stingy, or generous. After using a radio for a time, you can get an idea of the sensitivity of the S-Meter. It certainly is not a standard measurement.

Some like to estimate that 1 S unit equals 6 dB gain. This could be, but there is no guarantee. It may be mentioned in the specifications of your receiver. If so, then you have something definite to go by.

S units are a relative reading. So we can use it to make comparisons. When an operator changes antennas, you can give him the difference of the S-Meter reading. The S-Meter values did not change, only the other's antenna.

The S-Meter can be used to listening to 2 operators from the same location and make comparisons. Using the S-Meter to compare signals on ground wave is another use. Just keep in mind it is only a relative reading.

What about the section that is over S-9?

It is not S-10. It is a 10dB increase over the S-9 value. If the S-meter reads 6 dB per S unit, then you have gained almost 1.5 S units.

Keep in mind that the S-Meter is a relative measurement and works well in measuring comparisons.

73,
Ralph WD0EJA
JUNE 2015

BILAL COMPANY
137 MANCHESTER DR.
FLORISSANT, CO. 80816
U.S.A

A Maker's Introduction to Ham Radio

If you like making "cool stuff" then take a look at this web-site:
<http://makezone.com>

This site is full with Do It Yourself (DIY) projects with a good deal of Raspberry PI, and Arduino projects, but definitely not limited to these.

A couple years ago Anna

talked about her DXpation to Costa Rica as part of the 2011 Youth DX Adventure team during one of the PPRAA meetings.

Anna just keeps evangelizing amateur radio. There is a sidebar about Anna in this MakeZone article:

<http://makezine.com/2015/06/30/a-makers-introduction-to-ham-radio/>

If I remember correctly Anna had a lot to do getting the station at her current and previous schools.

You don't have to be present to win!



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.



Megafest – July 11th
RAFFLE PRIZES



Yaesu FT-991 value \$1,670

Programming software donated by RT Systems

ICOM ID-5100A Dual Band D-Star – value \$725

Donated by Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group

Programming software donated by RT Systems

Yaesu FT-7900R – value \$324

Programming software donated by RT Systems

Yaesu FT-60R – value \$150

Programming software donated by RT Systems



**Yaesu
FT-60R**

Rig Expert AA-54 antenna analyzer – value \$350

Butternut HF6XV – antenna – value \$390

Tickets:

\$1	1 ticket
\$5	6 tickets
\$10	15 tickets
\$20	40 tickets

For table reservations:

ppraa.org/Megafest
\$17 per table
\$ 5 admission

You don't have to be present to win!



VE Testing & Education—Colorado Springs (PPRAA)

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association (PPRAA)

When:
Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec
2nd Saturday at 9 AM

Location:
Colorado Technical University (CTU)
4435 North Chestnut
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Directions available at:
ppraa.org/ve-testing
or contact:
Dan Martin
VE@PPRAA.org



Mike Anderson, WV7T does personal and small group training for all license classes.

Mike also does Morse code training.

Mike can be reached at:
719-229-8610
wv7t@aol.com

VE Testing Woodland Park (MARC)

MOUNTAIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC)

When:
Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov
1st Saturday at 10 AM

*** July 11th this month ***

Location:
Woodland Park
Woodland Park Library-Community Meeting RM

218 East Midland Avenue

Directions:
<http://www.nx0g.org/ve.html>
or contact
Wes Wilson (KØHBZ)



Applicants will need the following items:

1. A valid PHOTO ID, driver's license preferred (if you do not have a valid photo ID, please call for alternative identification requirements).
2. Your FRN or SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (now required – this includes children).
3. Your CURRENT ORIGINAL amateur radio license (if any) and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
4. The CURRENT ORIGINAL CSCEs you have and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
5. Cash, Check or Money Order for \$15 (standard ARRL VE Fee). Checks and money orders should be made out to ARRL. This covers all exams you wish to take at this VE session.

Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.

PPRAA – Colorado Springs testing only:

Anyone passing their Technician Class examination at a PPRAA test session will receive a free year's membership to the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

NOTE: PPRAA and MARC VE Team policy, as with many VE

No Play, No Win—Raffle Tickets on sale!

Yaesu FT-991



The FT-991 HF/50MHz/VHF/UHF Base Station Transceiver

- 160 Meters through 70 Centimeters
- Modes SSB/CW/FM/C4FM Digital/AM/RTTY/PSK
- 100 Watts (2 Meter / 70 Centimeter: 50 Watts) of Solid Performance
- 3.5 inch TFT Full-Color Touch Panel Operation for Superior Operability and Visibility
- High Speed Spectrum Scope with ASC (Automatic Spectrum-Scope Control) built-in
- Roofing Filter 3 kHz and 15 kHz
- High Accuracy TCXO ± 0.5 ppm and high resolution DDS and PLL local oscillator
- 32-bit High Speed Floating Point IF DSP
- IF WIDTH and IF SHIFT provides great QRM Rejection
- CONTOUR, DNR, IF Notch and APF (Audio Peak Filter, CW only)
- 160 - 6 Meters High Speed Automatic Antenna Tuner included

PPRAA Scholarship Fund

The PPRAA scholarship was established with the vision that it would be a deserving young ham that keeps on giving. However, that can be realized if the scholarship continues to be funded year after year. Individual hams, clubs, and organizations, are kindly asked to consider supporting the scholarship's future and its great cause through a tax-deductible contribution, even if just a few

dollars. Contributions may be made via the PPRAA website (<http://ppraa.org>) as part of the membership renewal, or at club meetings and event.

The scholarship fund can be reached at:

FAR Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 911
Columbia, MD 21044

The PPRAA is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization. As a benefit, all contributions will be acknowledged with a tax receipt letter and are deductible to the full extent of the law.

**PIKES PEAK RADIO
AMATEUR
ASSOCIATION**

Send membership application to:

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

General Questions:
ppraa@ppraa.org

ØBeat:
zerobeat@ppraa.org



ppraa.org

Get Radio Active, get on the air!

Membership Application:

Date: ____ / ____ / ____ **New Membership: Yes / No**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Call: _____ **Class:** ____ **Phone # (____)** _____

Email: _____

Are you a ARRL member: Yes / No

Additional Family Members:

Name1: _____ **Call:** _____ **Class:** ____ **ARRL Member: Yes / No**

Name2: _____ **Call:** _____ **Class:** ____ **ARRL Member: Yes / No**

Name3: _____ **Call:** _____ **Class:** ____ **ARRL Member: Yes / No**

____ \$15.00 Full Member

____ \$10.00 Full Member over 65

____ \$18.00 Family Membership

____ \$12.00 Family Membership over 65

\$____ **Membership Amount**

\$____ **Scholarship Fund Donation**

\$____ **PPRAA General Fund Donation**

\$____ **Total**

2015 Scholarship Fund

Please help

Ø- Beat Banner

Photo by Dan—WØRO.

This photograph was taken
January 2012.

The theme of the banner is
Pikes Peak. If you would
like to submit pictures for
the Ø-Beat banner, please
send them to:
zerobeat@ppraa.org

Please Include "[0-beat]" as
part of the subject line.